

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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1. Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan's release "at his own request" as Minister of Internal Trade does not presage any political decline for him. The announcement of the change still carried Mikoyan as Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and his replacement, D.V. Pavlov, had been his deputy. Mikoyan is one of the most able Soviet economic administrators and organizers, and this opinion is widely held in the Soviet Union. Mikoyan may be compared with L.M. Kaganovich in this regard; his present position as Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers without any ministerial responsibility is comparable to the position which Kaganovich has held since Stalin's death.
2. Mikoyan has been released from his former position as a symbol to the Soviet people that the emphasis on light industry discernible in Soviet economic affairs since Stalin's death is now over. Mikoyan's release will indicate to the Soviet people that the economy has shifted to heavy industry once more because of the threat to peace implicit in West German rearmament.

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